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## FEATURE STORY

**Gas Rig Decline Does Not Equal Immediate Production Decline, ConocoPhillips Exec Says** Don't like today's low natural gas prices? Hang on, they will change, eventually, ConocoPhillips Gas & Power's Jim Duncan, manager of market research, told a Houston audience Thursday. "Just hang on...Prices have never ever stayed down forever," Duncan said at Argus North American Gas Markets 2012. In commodity markets, particularly natural gas, one thing that can be counted on is change, Duncan said. "This isn't your grandfather's natural gas market, but it probably is because we've gone full circle," he said, noting that gas prices through most of the 1990s were around \$2-3. "Prices will never look bearish at the top of the market, and they never look bullish at the bottom of the market." ([read more](#))

**Researchers ICF, IHS Back up Bullish Marcellus Estimates** Two new reports by top international research companies have come in on the high side of the great Marcellus resources debate, producing estimates that range between 267 Tcf and 698 Tcf of possible production. ([more...](#))

**Perryville: Crossroads for Shale Gas, Power Gen** Much of the pipeline capacity into and out of the Perryville Hub in North Louisiana handles gas from the Haynesville/Bossier Shale in North Louisiana, as well as the Barnett, Fayetteville, Woodford and Eagle Ford shale plays. With gas demand from power generation growing up on the other side of the hub, and the potential for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports from South Louisiana, Perryville pipeliners are streamlining trading operations. ([more...](#))

**Williams Partners Buys Caiman's Midstream Unit, Plans Utica JV** Williams Partners LP on Monday agreed to pay \$2.5 billion to buy Caiman Energy's midstream business, giving it a much bigger footprint in the natural gas liquids (NGL) portion of the Marcellus Shale in northern West Virginia, southwestern Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. The two companies also are teaming up to build a midstream business in the Utica Shale. ([more...](#))

**'Epa-Dimock' Over? Testing Finds No Contamination from Drilling** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said Thursday initial test results of water samples taken from 11 households in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock Township, PA, do not indicate any levels of contamination from natural gas drilling. ([more...](#))

**Ohio House Puts Brakes on Governor's Tax Plans** Ohio Gov. John Kasich said he is prepared to fight his fellow Republicans in the General Assembly who are unenthusiastic about his plans to restructure taxes and regulations on the oil and natural gas industry. ([more...](#))

**North Dakota Continues to Set Production Records** After a record-setting 2011, North Dakota continues to set all-time highs in oil and natural gas production, producing wells and rig counts, according to the latest statistics from the state's Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). ([more...](#))

**Economics Replacing Supply Concerns for Ethane** Will ethane production from shale plays in Appalachia support all of the ethane projects proposed for the region? ([more...](#))

**Eagle Ford, Rockies Liquids Spur Mont Belvieu Expansion** The buildout of infrastructure to serve growing liquids-rich natural gas production from shale plays is continuing. Driven by natural gas liquids (NGL) production out of the Rockies and the Eagle Ford Shale of South Texas, Enterprise Products Partners LP plans to construct two more NGL fractionators at its Mont Belvieu, TX, facility. These would provide 150,000 b/d of incremental capacity. Pipeline construction also is under way. ([more...](#))

**Aither, Brazil's Braskem Fuel West Virginia Cracker Rumors** Days after a Royal Dutch Shell plc subsidiary announced that it intends to purchase a site in Pennsylvania -- presumably for its "world-scale" ethane cracker in the Marcellus Shale -- media reports are fueling speculation that two companies are interested in building their own crackers in West Virginia, with one possibly making their announcement today, Wednesday. ([more...](#))

**Aussie Firm Bullish on Utah Shale Gas Prospects** Perth, Western Australia-based Golden State Resources has received further verification it could be holding a significant shale gas play in the Golden Eagle field in Grand County in southeast Utah. The economics look good, according to a recent petroleum engineering consultant's study. ([more...](#))

**North Carolina Governor Open to Regulated Fracking** After getting a first hand look at hydraulic fracturing (fracking) operations in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale -- and with a comprehensive study of the practice due out in her state later this spring -- North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue on Wednesday said she believes fracking can be done safely. ([more...](#))

